

House Republican Press Release

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Sen . Gunther, Rep. Miller: Open Space Grants Approved for Shelton, Stratford



Shelton and Stratford residents will be able to enjoy expanded recreational and hiking opportunities, thanks to open space grants approved for both towns, state Senator George “Doc” Gunther, R-21st District, and state representatives Richard O. Belden, R-113th, Lawrence G. Miller, R-122nd District, said today.

The Open Space Grant Awards were announced Thursday by Governor M. Jodi Rell and Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy at a ceremony in Norwalk. Open Space Grants totaling \$6.8 million were awarded to 24 Connecticut towns.

“I’d like to thank Governor Rell and Commissioner McCarthy for their continued support for the preservation of rapidly vanishing open space areas in Fairfield County and elsewhere in Connecticut,” said Senator Gunther. “Once open space disappears because of development pressure, it can never be recovered. The grant for Shelton will enable the town to enhance and enlarge the Indian Wells Overlook property. Shelton and Stratford are fortunate to be able to expand their open space for the benefit of current residents and their children and grandchildren.”

“Roosevelt Forest is one of the major open space areas in Stratford and has been for more than 40 years. I helped get the first law passed about 40 years ago authorizing the creation of conservation commissions throughout the state. I’m happy to see our local conservation commissions are staying on top of this issue and are working to provide more open space for our communities,” Senator Gunther said.

“These grants will add to existing open space areas in Shelton and Stratford and provide more passive recreational opportunities for residents of both towns,” Representative Miller said. “The pressure to develop the remaining open space and forested areas in our towns is intense. Thanks to the state’s Open Space grant program, Shelton and Stratford now have the resources we need to preserve the rapidly shrinking reserves of undeveloped land that help make our towns attractive places to live, work and raise our families.”

The funding includes:

- \$33,750 to help Shelton acquire the 6.91 acre Above the Overlook woodlot, which is located off Hilltop Drive and connects with Indian Wells Overlook, a previous grant project. Acquisition of the property will create a more contiguous parcel of land within the Housatonic River Greenway.
- \$18,000 to help Stratford acquire the Albertson property, which would add more acreage to the abutting Roosevelt Forest. The property is a forested landlocked parcel, with abutting wetlands.